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First Quarterly Report

to

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Interactive Initialization of Heat Flux Parameters

for Numerical Models Using

Satellite Temperature Measurements

March 10 - May 31, 1981

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I. Introduction

During the first three months of this grant, efforts were made in two directions (i) to bring the image processing and boundary layer model operation into a completely interactive mode and (ii) to test our present method for determining the surface energy budget and surface moisture availability and thermal inertia on a scale appreciably larger than that of the city which was the focus of our previous HCMM grant.

II. Results

1. Model development

At present only a month of work or less remains to be done in order to be able to employ our method in a completely interactive mode. Both the boundary layer model and the image rectification and resampling programs have been converted for use in the minicomputer and incorporated into the job stream. It was necessary to streamline the boundary layer model in order that it would operate more efficiently on the slower computer with limited core space. The model now executes on the minicomputer at about the same speed as it ran on the IBM 370.

2. We are examining a region a few hundred kilometers on a side centered over southern Indiana during a period 21-22 August 1978. Because of the orbital schedule and the presence of clouds over some parts of the region, it was necessary to use a 36-hr orbital day/night pass rather than a pair 12 hours apart. Throughout August, southern Illinois and southwestern Indiana were experiencing a notable drought, as indicated by very low precipitation amounts and negative crop moisture indices. Conversely, central Indiana recieved near or above normal precipitation and the crop moisture index was positive.

The purpose of performing our analyses of surface parameters on a regional scale is to learn if significant changes in rainfall can be detected by variations in the surface moisture availability and also to find out if our method will yield reasonable results on this scale. A further use in performing these analyses on the IBM 370 is that the patterns obtained will be compared with those determined on the minicomputer by the interactive method, which should become operational this summer.